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light has been shed upon the history of the valley of the Nile, especially the very dawn of its civilisation. Professor Budge, one of the foremost Egyptologists, who has the best means of keeping abreast of the times and incorporating the results of his colleagues' work into his own investigations, here presents us the matured product of the present state of knowledge. The undertaking is gigantic, but he absolves the task to his credit. The contents of the several volumes are as follows: Vol. I., Egypt in the Neolithic and Archæic Period; Vol. II., Egypt Under the Great Pyramid Builders; Vol. III., Egypt Under the Amenemhats and Hyksos; Vol. IV., Egypt and Her Asiatic Empire; Vol. V., Egypt Under Rameses the Great; Vol. VI., Egypt Under the Priest-Kings and Tanites and Nubians; Vol. VII., Egypt Under the Saïtes, Persians, and Ptolemies; Vol. VIII., Egypt Under the Ptolemies and Cleopatra VII.

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ENCYCLOPÆDIA BIBLICA. A Critical Dictionary of the Literary, Political, and Religious History, the Archæology, Geography, and Natural History of the Bible. Edited by The Rev. *T. K. Cheyne*, D.Litt., D.D., Oriel Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at Oxford and formerly Fellow of Balliol College, Canon of Rochester, and *J. Sutherland Black*, M.A. LL.D., formerly Assistant Editor of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Volume IV., Q to Z. New York: The Macmillan Company. London: Adam and Charles Black. 1903. Price, \$5.00 net.

The fourth volume of the *Encyclopædia Biblica* now lies before us, containing the letters Q to Z, thus completing the work. We have to repeat that the enterprise is a gigantic one, covering the vast space of the entire Old Testament, to which have been added in this last volume such articles as refer to the development of the New Testament from the Old. For say the editors: "The yearly advancing study of the apocryphal and apocalyptic Jewish literature is destined to have considerable effect within the near future on the treatment of the religious ideas of both parts of our Bible." Accordingly, a few descriptive articles relating to these new subjects can only be favorable to the study of Old Testament theology, and will probably in the not distant future be considered indispensable.

The present volume comes fully up to all the expectations that can be had. It is a stately volume of over 1000 pages, and contains essays of which many might appear in book form and certainly contain more material than can otherwise be found in many volumes. The tone of the expositions may sometimes be considered too conservative by scholars, but this is more excusable of a biblical encyclopædia, which is designed not only for the use of scholars but also for clergymen, and accordingly the parlor side should not entirely be lost sight of.

We may mention especially the care with which the articles on the following topics have been written: Resurrection, Sacrifice, Saul, Sennacherib, the Sermon on the Mount, the Sethites, Shekel, Simon Magus, Simon Peter, Sinai and Horeb, Sodom and Gomorrah, Solomon, Son of God and Son of Man, Spiritual Gifts

Syria, Tabernacle, Temple and Temple Service, Texts and Versions of the Old Testament, Tobit, Trade and Commerce, the Tribes, Wine and Strong Drink, Wisdom Literature and the Book of Wisdom, Zoroastrianism, etc., etc. —5.

ALBUM-KERN. Opstellen geschreven ter eere van *Dr. H. Kern*. Hem aangeboden door vrienden en leerlingen op zijn zeventigsten verjaardag. Leiden : E. J. Brill. 1903. Pages, xvii, 395.

There is a regulation in Holland according to which all professors retire with full pay at their seventieth year. Professor Kern having attained the age of a septuagenarian now enters upon his well-merited release from work, and in his honor his friends have made this remarkable collection.

It is a unique book, this *Album-Kern*, a volume in large quarto containing collections of several most prominent professors of Sanscrit, Pâli, Chinese, Anglo-Saxon, Dutch literature, etc. It is introduced by a letter to Professor Kern, written by none less than Prof. Otto von Böhtlingk. The most remarkable contribution is the translation of a Sanskrit poem, the gambler's song, one of the seventy songs of the Rigveda, published by Geldner and Kaegi. The manuscript of the translation, which is here reproduced in facsimile, was found among the late Professor Roth's papers and it is probable that it is his own version and versification. Certain it is that it is written from the beginning to the end in the handwriting of the late Professor Roth.

We hope that those contributions of the *Album-Kern* which treat subjects of universal interest will in time be republished in some more accessible form.

The frontispiece is a faithful portrait of Professor Kern.

P. C.

THE SURD OF METAPHYSICS. An Inquiry Into the Question : Are There Things-in-Themselves? By *Dr. Paul Carus*. Chicago : The Open Court Publishing Co. London : Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd. 1903. Pages, vi, 233. Price, \$1.25.

This book contains a precise outline of the philosophy of the editor of *The Monist*, tested at one of the most critical questions of metaphysics, the doctrine of things-in-themselves. Surd in mathematics is that which is incapable of being expressed in rational numbers, in a word the irrational, and applying the same conception to philosophy, our author investigates the claim made by metaphysicians that there is some irreducible quantity in experience which leads to metaphysicism, agnosticism, or mysticism, finding a classical expression in the doctrine of things-in-themselves. Dr. Carus rejects the assumption of things-in-themselves, quoting one of the Goethe-Schiller Xenions as his motto :

" Since Metaphysics of late
without heirs to her fathers was gathered,
Here at the auctioneer's
' things-in-themselves ' will be sold."

—Xenions of Schiller and Goethe.